

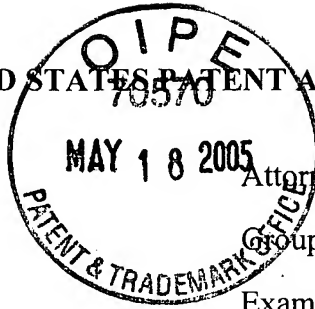
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tim Freeman

Serial No.: 10/800,223

Filing Date: March 12, 2004

Title: LOCKBOX FOR HITCH RECEIVER



Attorney Docket No. FRNK-1-1428

Group Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: Not yet assigned.

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS:<sup>1</sup>

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.251**

On March 12, 2004, the above-identified applicant, through his representative filed the following documents utilizing the express mail procedure under 37 CFR § 1.10:

1. Postcard
2. Check No. 28363
3. PTO form – Utility Patent Application Transmittal cover sheet
4. Fee Transmittal Form for FY 2004
5. Application Data Sheet
6. Declaration (37 CFR § 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76)
7. United States Patent Application – “Lockbox for Hitch Receiver”
8. Four sheets of drawings
9. Election of Power of Attorney and Correspondence Address Indication Form – PTO SB 81
10. Statement under 37 CFR § 3.73(b) – PTO Form SB 96
11. Assignment document

<sup>1</sup>

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date

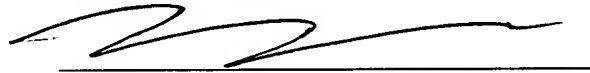
Brenda Ruthrauff

12. Assignment document coversheet – PTO Form 1595
13. Non-Publication Request – SB0 Form SB 35

On April 7, 2005, the Office mailed to the Applicant's representative a Notice under 37 CFR § 2.1251 (copy enclosed) indicating that "the following papers pertaining to the above-identified application cannot be located after reasonable search: NPL document dated 3/12/04."

It is the Applicant's understanding that the phrase "NPL document dated 3/12/04" refers to a non-patent literature document, such as might be submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement. Please be advised that on March 12, 2004, the Applicant submitted no such non-patent literature. Should the Office require a complete copy of all papers filed on behalf of the Applicant on March 12, 2004, the Office is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Tim Freeman

By: Michael J. Folise, Esq.  
Reg. No. 31,952  
Black, Lowe & Graham PLLC  
701 Fifth Avenue, Ste. 4800  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Telephone: 206.381.3300  
Facsimile: 206.381.3301

MJF/bjr



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.251 - Pending Application**

☐ The file on the cover sheet cannot be located after a reasonable search. Therefore, the Office is initiating the reconstruction of the file of the above-identified application pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.251.

Applicant is given a period of **THREE (3) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this notice within which to provide a copy of applicant's record (if any) of all of the correspondence between the Office and applicant for the above-identified application (except for U.S. patent documents), a list of such correspondence, and a statement that the copy is a complete and accurate copy of applicant's record of all of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the application (except for U.S. patent documents), and whether applicant is aware of any correspondence between the Office and applicant for the identified application that is not among applicant's records.

☒ The following paper(s) pertaining to the above-identified application cannot be located after a reasonable search:

NPL Document dated 03/12/04.

Therefore, the Office is initiating the reconstruction of such paper(s) pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.251.

Applicant is given a period of **THREE (3) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this notice within which to provide a copy of the paper(s) listed above and a statement that the copy of such paper(s) is a complete and accurate copy of applicant's record of such paper(s).

If applicant does not possess any record of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the application (or any copy of the paper(s) listed above), applicant must reply to this notice by providing a statement that applicant does not possess any record of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the above-identified application.

Failure to reply to this notice in a timely manner will result in abandonment of the above-identified application. The three-month period for reply to this notice may be extended (up to a maximum of six months) under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). However, failure to reply within this three-month period will result in a reduction of any patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

☐ A printout from PALM of the contents of the file of the above-identified application is included with this notice.

Direct the reply to this notice to:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Mail Stop: **Duplicates**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Direct questions concerning this notice to:

Image Assistance Center/ Customer Service

1-(888)-786-0101

PTO Doc Code: R251.NTC (Rev. 03/05)

In re Application of: FREEMAN, TIM  
Application No.: 10800223  
Filing Date: 03/12/04  
Title: LOCKBOX FOR HITCH RECEIVER

Direct to: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Mail Stop: **Duplicates**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

### NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.251 – Pending Application

Statement (check the appropriate box):

- ☐ The copy submitted with this reply is a complete and accurate copy of applicant's record of all of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the above-identified application (except for U.S. patent documents), and applicant is not aware of any correspondence between the Office and applicant for the above-identified application that is not among applicant's records.
- ☐ The copy of the paper(s) listed in the notice under 37 CFR 1.251 is/are a complete and accurate copy of applicant's record of such paper(s).
- ☐ The papers produced by applicant are applicant's complete record of all of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the above-identified application (except for U.S. patent documents), and applicant is not aware of any correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the above-identified application that is not among applicant's records.
- ☐ Applicant does not possess any record of the correspondence between the Office and the applicant for the above-identified application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name

**A Copy of this notice should be returned with the reply.**

**Burden Hour Statement:** This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.251. The information is used by the public to reply to a request for copies of correspondence between the applicant and the USPTO in order to reconstruct an application file. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This form is estimated to take 60 minutes to complete. This time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

Attorney Docket: FRNK-1-1428  
Filed by: MJF/b jr  
Date Mailed: May 16, 2005  
Serial No.: 10/800,223  
Filing Date: March 12, 2004  
Title: LOCKBOX FOR HITCH RECEIVER



- Return Post Card (1)
- Response to Notice Under 37 CFR § 1.251
- Copy of Response to Notice Under 37 CFR § 1.251

*Not Stop Duplicates*  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Please  
acknowledge the receipt of the above by applying the OFFICIAL PATENT  
OFFICE date stamp on this card and mailing it.